IT'S BEEN SAID THAT IF WE WEAVE IN FAITH, GOD WILL PROVIDE THE THREAD. I BELIEVE IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT JOHN AND VERA MAE PERKINS HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH A LOT OF THREAD OVER THE YEARS.

DR. AND MRS. PERKINS, I AM PROUD TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE "PERKINS JUBILEE." THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, OF ALL AGES AND RACES, ARE LIVING STRONG AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES BECAUSE OF YOUR WORK.

OVER THE YEARS, YOU HAVE TAUGHT US – IN YOUR WORDS AND IN YOUR ACTIONS – ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF GOD'S LOVE AND WISDOM. YOU HAVE SHOWN US HOW TO LIVE IN THE WAY OUR FATHER WOULD HAVE US LIVE – WITH A LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBOR AND A COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE.

AS GOVERNOR, I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICLY THANK YOU BOTH FOR YOUR DEDICATION, YOUR VISION, AND YOUR BELIEF IN THE GREATER GOOD. WE ARE ALL BETTER FOR IT.

THE AUTHOR BERNARD MALAMUD
ONCE WROTE, "WE HAVE TWO LIVES –
THE ONE WE LEARN WITH, AND THE
LIFE WE LIVE AFTER THAT."

YOU'VE SHAPED OUR LEARNING – A
LEARNING WE WILL ONLY
EXPERIENCE IN THE NEXT LIFE. I
KNOW IT WILL BE A JOYFUL ONE.

GOD BLESS YOU BOTH DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME.